

Thinking a lawn mower is the opposite extreme from riding.

Baseball slang in Japanese must be something weird and appalling.

Herewith approaches the joyous season when a man's boys rest in his pockets.

No man is a hero to his valet, and no machine ideal is a hero to the leading lady.

A witness-jet was dismissed from a New York show because she would not kiss a man—in public.

The Russian artist who says babies rubies can be cured by eating beetles fails to announce a cure for eating beetles.

"An Ithaca (N. Y.) doctor wishes to have placed in every public school the statue of a perfect man." Married or single?

A bottle containing a one dollar bill was carried 500 miles by sea. But it didn't get within reaching distance of New York.

Reserve a few swats for the mosquitoes that are coming, although all well-directed ones should be applied to house flies.

A Missouri judge rules that it is lawful for a man to spank his wife. So, also, is it lawful for him to thaw out dynamite.

An Ohio couple have parted because the wife likes Paris, while the husband prefers Cincinnati. And again the eagle screams.

A California man who has lived for eight years on nothing but milk has gone insane. Some milk would have done the job in half that time.

The directors of the Panama exposition are offering a prize of \$1,000 for a rose. Now, then, you amateur gardeners, here's a chance. Get busy.

A \$100,000 chair is to be endowed in a western university for the study of psychic phenomena. This ought to give the spirits a ghost of a chance.

Now some one has started an idea in England that all men should wear whiskers because the king sets the fashion. Still he isn't so handsome.

A Brooklyn woman who sued a man for kissing her has secured damages in the amount of six cents. The man who got the kiss must feel pretty cheap.

Another aviator has come to an untimely end, but there will be twenty foolhardy young men ready to take his place. Aviation, in spite of its fatalities, has come to stay.

The latest fashion prevailing among the women of the Berlin aristocracy is to have their portraits painted while they sleep. A rare opportunity to catch the lips in repose.

It is hinted that several of the antique books sold at the Hoe sale were not genuine. We have no doubt, however, that they will make just as good reading as the originals.

A western nature wizard has been grafting alfalfa roots on strawberry plants. Now the blame laid on the early imported strawberry can be placed where it belongs.

A woman's stocking ripe and she loses \$2,000 worth of diamonds. After reading, or, rather, viewing the "ads" in the popular magazines the occurrence would seem impossible.

A Philadelphia cook on being discharged is said to have tried to poison the whole family. She might have had as deadly revenge by staying on and continuing to cook for them.

Most women fall in love with daredevil men, declares a western college professor. That's the reason why men who are not afraid to be seen pushing a baby carriage on the street are married.

A Philadelphia woman threw a veil over a marble Cupid the other day and threatened to prosecute the owner. We have no doubt that the lady was modest enough to utter veiled threats.

Three discoveries of April 26, 1911, are the cure of rheumatism by removal of the tonsils, the prevention of hydrophobia by eating a beetle and the restoration of speech and hearing by being hit by an automobile. All are practical.

The frequency of explosions in a quarry flanking a farmyard near Turrytown led the ducks to save their hearing by covering their ears with their webbed feet. The mule was the most pronounced failure among the imitators.

A Cincinnati veteran has been lapping away a dime a month ever since Lincoln died, and this month he will spend the accumulation, nearly \$250, in entertaining the members of his old regiment on the 60th anniversary of their enlistment. This will be one of the odd celebrations of the semi-centennial of the war.

HELPS FARM VALUES

GOOD ROADS INCREASE SELLING VALUE OF RURAL PROPERTY.

LARGE AND SURE RETURNS

Improvement of Highways is Not Matter of Expense, but an Investment—With Good Roads the Farm Will Produce Greater Revenue.

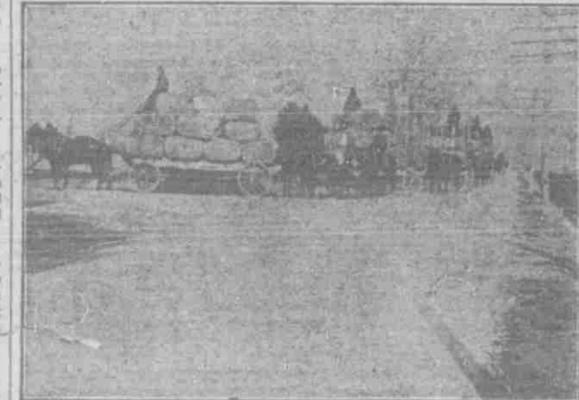
By HOWARD H. CROSS.

There is one very important factor that people are apt to overlook, and that is, the influence of good roads on the value of farm property. There is no fact that is better established or of which there is more abundant proof than that a good hard road leading from the farm to the market will increase the selling value of the farm far more than the amount of taxes required to be paid by the farmer to build the road. Hence when the matter is analyzed, it will be found that the building of good roads is not a matter of expense, but an investment that pays a larger and more certain return than anything else one can name.



Two Mules Drawing One Bale of Cotton Over Bad Road at Jackson, Tenn. This shows the conditions down in the cotton belt, where at times the roads are almost impassable. The team and driver are in harmony with the road. Ought any one expect thrift in such surroundings? The next cut shows the same road a mile nearer town, after it has been improved.

A progressive farmer will expend money on building good fences, tile his land, erect wind mills, barns, sheds, covers for his machinery, plant trees, and do many things to make his farm more attractive, more useful and more valuable. When a man has spent several hundred dollars on some of these improvements he figures his farm is worth more than the amount expended over what it was before. He is willing to expend money inside of his boundary fences, but when asked to go out beyond this to the public highway he is apt to feel that the amount of money spent is an expense that yields him no direct return. In fact, in no community, so far as the writer can ascertain, after a world wide study extending over 30 years, was the building of hard roads begun without the strongest opposition from those who were really to receive the largest benefit. Dire predictions were made that the property would be confiscated by the taxation, that the building of the roads would ruin the tax payer. But every community that has had the experience of building hard roads, using



Two Horses Drawing Eleven Bales of Cotton Over Road Shown in Other Picture, After Improvement. This is a road splendidly constructed built by a county bond issue. Before the roads were built there was little or no sale for farms, afterwards they were in demand at an advance of from 25 to 30 per cent, all on account of the good roads.

them and paying for them, has continued to build more and more from year to year. They found that while it called for the expenditure of money to meet the bills that it lightened their burdens in many other ways, that it made life better worth living, that there was more social life in the community, the children were better satisfied to stay upon the farm, and they could go to market any day in the year they liked, and thus take advantage of the market instead of the market taking advantage of them. It is within the experience of millions of farmers that they had grain or live stock on hand ready to sell; the price was right, but the roads were so bad they could not reach the market. A few weeks later when the roads improved, perhaps there was a drop in the price. The secretary of agriculture (and there is no higher authority) says that

good roads, usable every day in the year, so the farmers can take advantage of market conditions, are worth two or three cents on every bushel of grain, and ten to thirty cents a hundred on cattle and hogs. Hence, with good roads the farm will produce a larger revenue, it is a more desirable place to live and it is worth more money. If one were to go out to buy a farm, and when he alighted at the railway station, was met by the real estate agent, who told him he had two farms practically alike, one four miles east on a good macadam road, and the other four miles west, on a dirt road, the chances are ten to one that the buyer would prefer the farm upon the good road and willingly pay more money to get it. One of the first things the owner would say if he cared to sell, would be that he could go to town any day in the year and haul a good load, while a farmer eight miles west of him at times would not be able to turn a wheel. One county in Kentucky spent over \$200,000 upon the highways. The record is that former values nearly doubled. The same is true of Texas. It is also true of Indiana, and true wherever good roads are built. Distance is measured by the time it takes to go from place to place. Ask how far it is to a given point, and you are told it is about five minutes' walk, or to another inquiry, "It takes

full voted a bond issue of \$2,000,000, to be spent upon the highways of Wayne county. The state will also help, and the result will be 350 to 400 miles of first class highways, covering the county with Detroit as a center. By spreading the payment over 20 years it is found the increase in taxation is so small as not to be noticeable. On an average 80 acre farm it will be something like \$1.20 a year. Roads well built are permanent, given a moderate amount of attention and expense for maintenance. There is no reason why the present generation should carry the whole burden, and the future should be relieved therefrom. The plan of building a small piece of road every year by an annual tax, and extending the road a mile or two at a time is unsatisfactory in results, the cost is considerable more than it should be, and it takes a long time to get the roads. If 20 miles were built at one time in a township, there would be strong competition among contractors and the tax payers would find they could get their roads from 10 to 25 per cent less money, that they would have better built roads and would have them to use at once instead of waiting ten years or more to build them piecemeal, and have the first mile practically worn out before the last one was finished. Of course there would be interest to pay on the bonds, but if the use of the roads is not worth more to the community than the interest on the bonds, it would not pay to build the roads. Money can be borrowed at four or five per cent, and those in a position to form good judgment, will say that first class roads will pay for themselves every five years, or in other words, that their use is worth 20 per cent of the cost each year.

One sometimes hears a farmer, who is opposed to the building of hard roads, say that he can raise no more grain or get a larger return from the farm by reason of having good roads. Such a one will attempt to sustain his position by stating only part of the whole proposition. Of course it is true that the road has no influence upon the productivity of the farm along which it passes, but it does not follow that the net results are the same, whether the roads are good or bad. Only a few days ago the writer was down in the corn belt of Illinois and saw four horses hauling a load of corn into town. It was all the horses could do to handle the load, although the country was comparatively level. The mud in the road was nearly a foot deep. No fair minded man will say that a crop can be marketed under such conditions as cheaply as when the roads are good, and a single team can handle the same at twice the speed. The value of the farm does not depend alone upon what the soil will produce, but upon its accessibility to market, the environment and whether the farm is in every way desirable as a place to live. We spend money for pleasure and for comfort, and it is right that we should do so. Probably as a rule too little is spent for this. Whenever good roads have been built in any community, there has been a sharp advance in the price of land, because the farms are more accessible. The writer has in mind a county in northern Indiana, where about ten years ago a system of 24 miles of hard roads were built, covering the main highways of the township. About \$35,000 were spent upon the improvements, the payment spread over ten years. Within a year after the roads were built the farmers were making and getting \$15 to \$25 an acre more for their farms than they could have gotten before the roads were built. In some cases the advance was even more. The increase in taxation was hardly felt.

One of the prominent residents of the township, in commenting upon the improvement, said that the building of the roads exerted a powerful influence upon the lives of the people of the township—everybody began to slick up, a new picket fence replaced the old tumble down board fence, the house was painted, walks laid out, and an air of thrift was apparent everywhere. Also following the good roads, a township high school was built, and arrangements made to carry the children to and from school. This was a great relief to the isolation the young people were placed under before the roads were built. The new school became the social center and they found in that township that the building of a system of roads was the best investment they had ever made, and under no circumstances could they be induced to go back to the old way. It is the same story everywhere; in every locality where any community ever began to build good highways, and had the experience of building, using and paying for them, the community was not only satisfied but kept on building more and more roads.

In the last analysis it will be found that the building of highways adds to the value of the farm served by them several times the cost, and this increase in farm values is only one of the many advantages that grow out of splendid highways. Good roads will effect economies in many ways; they will make life more enjoyable; they mean better schools, more social life and more profit; they mean progress and civilization.

A Selfish Viewpoint.

Champ Clark, the Democratic leader, was discussing, at a Washington banquet, a measure of which he disapproved. "This measure," he said, "is a sign of narrowness and selfishness. It reminds me of the scholar to whom his teacher said on the first of February: 'Why was George Washington a great man?' 'Because,' said the scholar promptly, 'we don't have an school on his birthday.'"

Why We Lose Choice Gifts.

We fail to secure the choicest gifts because we do not sincerely desire them and are not willing to pay the cost.—Rev. Dr. W. G. Partridge, Baptist, Pittsburg.

Religion a Joy.

Religion does not consist in drawing a long face and heaving sighs as we pass on the journey of life, but in brightness and joy, the outcome of a Christian career.—Dr. William Spurgeon, Evangelist, London.

DOWNFALL OF SAMARIA

Lesson Text—3 Kings 17:1-18. Memory Verse—14. Golden Text—"He That Being Often Reproved Hardeneth His Neck, Shall Surely Be Destroyed, and That Without Remedy."—Prov. 1:24.

TIME—Hoshea became king in the twelfth year of Ahas (8 Kings 17:1, 2, C. W. Hoehner), 723 (Hastings). Samaria fell B. C. 722 (Hoehner), 723 (Hastings). PLACE—Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom, about 45 miles north of Jerusalem. KING—Rehoboam in Judah, carrying out his reforms. In Assyria and Babylon, Salmannasser IV., followed by Sargon II. in Assyria and Merodach-baladan in Babylon. In Egypt, Sesostris (sic). PROPHETS—Isaiah and perhaps Hosea and Micah.

What was the character of Hoshea? The implication of v. 2 is that, though he allowed the practices of idolatry and the other evils of his predecessors, yet he was a better man than they. Perhaps the teachings of Hosea had reached his heart. "About his personal character we know little. We may infer that it lacked decisive energy and lofty patriotism. Beginning his reign as a mere puppet in Assyria's hands, he shaped his career as an opportunist. He was too astute to offend any national susceptibilities by abandoning the worship of Jehovah, too cautious and politic to play the role of a purist in religious practices. The impartial historian will not judge this last king of Ephraim too severely, but will unhesitatingly admit that he lived in times of direct difficulty and peril, when nothing but miraculous divinely guided statesmanship, like that of Isaiah, could have saved the realm from overwhelming disaster." The Northern Kingdom had had its chance, and had thrown it away. "There is less hope for us each year and day we live in sin. Every hour we are drifting out to sea—the helpless, homeless bark is leaving the leeward shore farther and farther behind. Our diseases become incurable. Like those stones which, though soft as clay on being raised from the quarry, grow hard as flint through exposure to the weather, our hearts are growing harder day by day."

Hoshea's imprisonment is a fair example of the result of dependence upon men rather than God. Trust in Egypt was Israel's snare from the first. The prophets compared it to trusting in a shadow or making a staff out of a bruised reed. "The bankrupt who asks a bankrupt to set him up in business again is only losing time. The prisoner does not beg his fellow prisoner to set him free. The shipwrecked sailor does not call upon his shipwrecked comrade to place him safe ashore." In our troubles we are not to scorn the aid of men, but we are to know that without God's favor and assistance all human help is vain.

What measures did Salmannasser take to reduce to submission his rebellious vassal? He sent (or led in person) an army against him. Professor Rogers thinks that Hoshea marched out to meet this army, and was then captured and sent to Assyria as a prisoner. At any rate, "Samaria prepared for a siege. There is something heroic in the very thought. It was surrounded and hemmed in by territory over which it had once ruled in undisputed sway, but which had long been controlled by Assyrian governors and filled with Assyrian colonists. As Salmannasser advanced closer he would, of course, destroy and lay waste everything about the city which might have furnished any aid or comfort to it. From the villages and towns thus destroyed the people would flock into the capital until it was crowded. The people of Samaria may have hoped for help from Egypt, watching with sick hearts for signs of an approaching army of succor. They knew what surrender meant in the loss of their city, and in probable deportation to strange lands. They were fighting to the bitter end for homes and for life.

What God had done: By a marvelous deliverance, he had brought them out of their bondage in Egypt. He had driven out the Canaanites from before them. He had given them the commandments, and full and wise laws. He had made a covenant with them, over and over, promising them all blessings if they would obey him. He had sent them the prophets and seers, the best and wisest of men, to declare his will and lead the way. What Israel had done: They had fallen into a worse bondage, becoming slaves of an abominable idolatry. They had fallen to worshipping the very gods of the Canaanites, thus proved powerless. They had broken the commandments, especially the most solemn and important, that against idolatry. They had failed to keep their part of the covenant, and could not expect God to keep his part. They would not listen to the prophets, but persisted in all iniquity, setting up idolatrous obelisks, and Asherim, and even sacrificing their children to the fire god Molech.

MENTAL ACCURACY

Greatly Improved by Leaving Off Coffee

The manager of an extensive creamery in Wis. states that while a regular coffee drinker, he found it injurious to his health and a hindrance to the performance of his business duties. "It impaired my digestion, gave me a distressing sense of fullness in the region of the stomach, causing a most painful and disquieting palpitation of the heart, and what is worse, it muddled my mental faculties so as to seriously injure my business efficiency. I finally concluded that something would have to be done. I quit the use of coffee, short off, and began to drink Postum. The cook didn't make it right at first. She didn't boil it long enough, and I did not find it palatable and quit using it and went back to coffee and to the stomach trouble again. "Then my wife took the matter in hand, and by following the directions on the box, faithfully, she had me drinking Postum for several days before I knew it. "When I happened to remark that I was feeling much better than I had for a long time, she told me that I had been drinking Postum, and that accounted for it. Now we have no coffee on our table. "My digestion has been restored, and with this improvement has come relief from the oppressive sense of fullness and palpitation of the heart that used to bother me so. I note such a gain in mental strength and acuteness that I can attend to my office work with ease and pleasure and without making the mistakes that were so annoying to me while I was using coffee. "Postum is the greatest table drink of the times, in my humble estimation." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a reason." Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are credible, true, and full of human interest.



TRUE COURAGE.



Natalie—Yes, he was paying attention to her quite a long time. Estelle—Perhaps he hadn't the courage to propose. Natalie—Oh, I don't know. Perhaps he had the courage not to propose.

The Passing of the Wife.

We have known for some time that the wife would have to go. We have held off as long as possible the inevitable moment, but it might just as well be over at once. The wife was a very desirable article while she lasted. She mended the hose and did the housework when necessary and sat up patiently and waited for hubby's return. A useful person certainly—one to love, to honor and obey. Now the suffragette age is upon us and the wife is rapidly becoming extinct, says Life. In a few more years she will be exhibited in museums. Adieu, madam! We respect your memory!

A Prudent Program.

"I make it a rule never to lend anybody an umbrella," said Mr. Growcher. "Good idea," replied Mr. Grump. "If you keep lending an umbrella about there's no telling when it may drift into the hands of the original owner." Very Like.

"Did Hawkins take his punishment like a man?" asked Lollerby. "You bet he did," laughed Dubbleigh. "He hollered and yelled and used strong language to beat creation."—Harper's Weekly.